

*August 30, 1980*



*St. George Sixth Ward  
Honor Day  
and Reunion*



- 1 Leon Jennings
- 2 Elmer Pickett
- 3 Spencer Esplin
- 4 Walter H Snow
- 5 Eldon E. Hafen
- 6 G. Murray Webb
- 7 Jones L. Larkin
- 8 Daniel D. McArthur

# SIXTH WARD BISHOPS

1947--1980



Front Row--From left to right:

G. Murray Webb, Eldon Hafen, Spencer Esplin and  
Daniel D. McArthur.

Back Row--From left to right:

Leon Jennings, Elmer Pickett, Walter H. Snow and  
J. Grey Larkin.



SIXTH WARD HONOR DAY AND REUNION

AUGUST 30, 1980

7:30 - 10:00 A.M. Breakfast for everyone at the  
large fireplace at the Park

Activities for everyone

11:15 A.M. - 12:55 P.M. Temple Session

5:00 - 6:30 P.M. Dinner for all Bishoprics and  
their wives at Bishop Grey  
Larkin's home

7:00 - 7:20 P.M. Bishops and wives reception line

7:30 P.M. Evening Program - Sixth Ward  
Cultural Hall

Light refreshments immediately after

EVENING PROGRAM

7:30 P.M.

Bishops and Wives at door greeting 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Greeting and Welcome Bishop Daniel McArthur

Prayer: A. L. Elmer

Script: Ruth Esplin

Vocal Solo: "The Bishop's Call" Marian Bowler

Tribute to Bishops: Mary LaRee Jones

Music by Doris Webb

Song: "Lovest Thou Me" Mixed Quartet

Floydean Madsen, Laurel Madsen,

Verus Barlow, Elmer Pickett

Accompanied by Doris Webb

Testimonies by Bishops: Leon Jennings, Elmer Pickett,  
Spencer Esplin, Walter Snow

Song: "I Have a Testimony" Melody Moms

Faye McArthur, Dorothy Ruesch, Ruth Esplin,

Vera Blake, Felice Seegmiller, Verus Barlow,

Theresa Graff, Marie Laidlaw, Elaine Allred,

June Brinkerhoff, Mildred Larkin, Eva Miles

Accompanied by Doris Webb

Testimonies by Bishops: Murray Webb, Eldon Hafen, Grey  
Larkin, Daniel McArthur

Slide Presentation: Dorothy Ruesch

Song: "Live for Eternity: Melody Moms

Accompanied by Doris Webb

Closing Prayer: Wayne McConkie

Refreshments



## HISTORY OF THE ST. GEORGE SIXTH WARD

Leon Jennings, the first bishop of the sixth ward, began organizing the ward in June of 1947, although the first



meeting was not held until the first Sunday in August of that year. Ross Syphus was first counselor, Conrad Larkin was second counselor and Merrill Stucki was ward clerk. After Brother Larkin's death in an airplane crash in 1948, Harold S. Stowell became counselor and served for about a year.

Merrill Stucki was called as second counselor and John Smith served as ward clerk.

The original boundaries of the Sixth Ward included everything east of 200 East and south of 100 South, including the Washington fields and Middleton. It was a mixture of young and old with many growing families and a population of 445.

Bishop Jennings did not have a bishop's office, desk, or even a handbook, only a stack of memberships. Bishop's meetings were held at his home while Sister Jennings tried to quietly entertain four young children. The ward met in the St. George Tabernacle. Relief Society was held upstairs in the Bishop's Storehouse at 200 South 300 East.

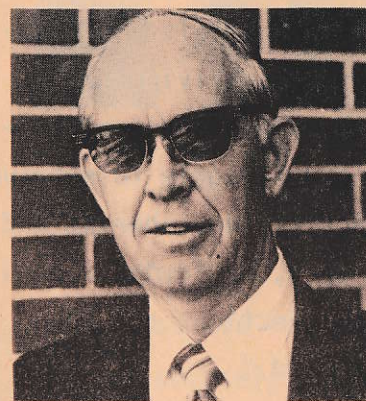
Ward welfare assignments began during this time. In 1948 the ward welfare assignment was 50 cases of eggs, 20 tons of hay and 200 bushels of barley. To accomplish the assignment of eggs and dressed chickens, the ward completed the purchase of the west half of the block where East Elementary stands. Here they raised their chickens. A 20

acre farm in the fields and the property where the Sixth Ward chapel is located were also purchased. In 1948 plans for building a new chapel were begun.

In order to raise money for this project, the ward served Lion's Club dinners regularly, serving 900 people at one time. These projects created a feeling of unity among the members as they worked side by side like one big happy family.

Always a booster of the Sixth Ward, Bishop Jennings attributes the strength of the Ward to the good people who accepted their callings and dedicated themselves to fulfilling them. He appreciated the growth he experienced in this position. When he began, he had had no experience in organizing meetings or speaking. By making certain the meetings were well planned, he escaped speaking for about six months, but he was called to speak unexpectedly and learned that a bishop should always be prepared to give a few remarks. After serving as a bishop for four years, he was called to the high council and then later the stake presidency. He looks back on this time of service as a very rich experience and as a time when this testimony was strengthened.

When Bishop Jennings was released as bishop in September, 1951, Elmer Pickett was called to serve. With Don F.



Schmuts and Eldon McArthur as his counselors, he served until January 1956. Spencer Esplin was ward clerk and Ralph Gongaware and Franklin Jones were assistant ward clerks during this time.

Bishop Pickett was given the charge from the Stake Presidency to "build a chapel." He was also



inspired to increase the missionary effort and to get the ward out of debt. Although at this time the ward population was low, the area large and the net worth of the members was poor, they were exceedingly rich in spirituality, dependability and desire of the members to do the Lord's work. The ward was heavily in debt from the farm and chicken project. A high percentage of the members were older, retired people living the St. George to do temple work. The remainder were younger families. Very few were in the middle-aged group where most of the leadership is usually located. During these years, however, the Sixth Ward became the growth area of St. George and the ward population more than doubled. Most of the people moving in were solid LDS and a real asset to the ward.

Bishop Pickett states, "We were blessed with a spirit of cooperation and fellowship that has persisted to this day. Members who were otherwise inactive, went all out to support us financially and on our work projects. Through this, many were brought back into activity in a spiritual sense. The missionary spirit grew dramatically and the Sixth Ward led the stake in the number of missionaries in the field. The blessing of building our own chapel and then enjoying its use must not be overlooked. Just as the pioneers developed a strong sense of loyalty and support for each other through sharing and surviving hardships, so did we, as a ward, develop a like sense of loyalty and support for each other in our struggle to survive as a ward. By working together, sacrificing, sharing and an all-out effort to do the Lord's work, we forged a bond of fellowship and belonging that is infectious and soon acquired by those who move into our ward."

Building the new chapel was the highlight of the years Brother Pickett served as bishop. "During the construction," he relates, "we were inspired to make some rather drastic changes in the plans that gave us five additional classrooms plus the large recreation hall and a much larger chapel. We have reaped the blessings of these changes ever since." The building was dedicated by President David O. McKay, an event many members will never forget.

His time of service was filled with many blessings. He values the bond of love and fellowship that developed at that time between him and so many wonderful ward members. He says it was "a period of spiritual enlightenment and training that has helped me all my life. I had a feeling of direction and accomplishment during the period of my service that I have never felt before or since."

When Bishop Pickett was released in January 1956,



Spencer Esplin was called to be bishop, although at the age of 29 he felt he was too young. He keenly felt his weaknesses and inadequacies, but when he was set apart by Elder Mark E. Petersen, Bishop Esplin felt the spirit of the Lord as he was blessed specifically in those areas where he felt he needed strength. This blessing indicated to Bishop Esplin that he had a special calling to work with the young people in his ward.

During this time Karl Cottam and Carlson Terry were his counselors. In May of 1958, Murray Webb replaced Carlson Terry as counselor, when Brother Terry moved from the ward.



Serving as ward clerks were Leo Killian and Franklin Jones.

While Brother Esplin served as bishop, the ward grew from about 750 members to 100 members. The chapel had been in use for only a year and was already bulging at the seams. The Junior Sunday School was so crowded that when a child sat down on one end of the bench, it was likely that a child at the opposite end of the bench would be pushed off. There was also an abundance of teenagers in the ward; many of these are now serving as bishops and leaders in their various wards. Bishop Esplin enjoyed a closeness with the older ward members too, many of whom were temple workers who only spent their winters in St. George.

The roadshows produced during this time involved all ages of ward members and increased the rapport among the people and many pleasant memories remain of these fun times. The ward enthusiastically supported the strong athletic teams. During this time 39 Aaronic Priesthood boys took an unforgettable trip to Mexico. The members truly enjoyed associating together and benefitted spiritually as they grew in oneness.

During this time, the ward farm was improved with cement ditches, the chapel was completely finished and the ward continued to serve dinners for the Lion's Club to raise money. This helped the ward maintain its good financial condition.

Bishop Esplin says that serving as bishop built his testimony and taught him to obey the promptings of the Spirit. Fulfilling his calling became the entire focus of life for him and his family at that time, and this service brought happiness. He took a special interest in the young people, but found time for the older people as

well, and the ward members related well to Bishop Esplin. True to his calling he influenced many young people for good. He and his wife were examples to them that a gospel-centered life could be a fun-filled, joyous way of life.



After serving two years as a member of the high council, Walter H. Snow was sustained at bishop on June 14, 1959. His counselors were Murray Webb and Phil E. Squire. The ward clers were Leo Killian, Arthur Gardner and Budd Wilcox. Bishop Snow pays tribute to these men, "They carried their responsibilities willingly and answered every call that came to them."

Bishop Snow was set apart on September 8, 1959, in Enterprise, by Elder ElRay L. Christiansen. "This was a very inspirational experience. Among many beautiful things included in this blessings was admonition and counsel on using the telephone. He also firmly laid his hands on my head," Bishop Snow relates. During this time, the age for missionaries was lowered from 20 to 19 and for many months the ward had only missionary farewells in their sacrament meetings. The ward was growing so fast that it was often difficult to find jobs for people who desired to serve. Geographically, the ward covered what now includes the sixth, seventh, ninth and sixteenth wards. It was necessary to make changes in the chapel to provide classrooms for the growing ward.

"The ward was left in excellent condition by the previous bishopric. We had a 20-acre farm which was later sold to Kay Bundy when the stake purchased their present farm.



Under the direction of Brother Webb, this farm was productive and provided most, if not all, of our welfare assessment," Bishop Snow states.

The bishopric lead out in increasing temple attendance at this time by going as a bishopric and planning excursions for the ward with brief socials after the sessions.

When asked to explain the strength of the Sixth Ward, Bishop Snow said, "Perhaps the strength of the Sixth Ward comes from the devotion of pioneer ancestry. At the risk of leaving someone out, let me name a few. Such families and people as George E. Miles, Moroni McArthur, Arthur Cottam, Everett Syphus and many others gave stability to the bishopric as well as to the members. Their example was one worthy of emulation. Because of this background, our young people have always enjoyed athletics and have always been well coached and competitive."

Bishop Snow describes his service as "a busy period of life but a happy time being in the service of others. There was much joy and, as would be expected, there was some sorrow and heartache. I always appreciated the counsel and advice of the stake presidency." The year and a half he served as bishop was very special because he set an example of sweet, unassuming service and devotion to the Lord. When he was called into the stake presidency, George Murray Webb



called as Bishop and was ordained by Apostle Delbert L. Stapley. Phil Squire and Eldon Hafen were counselors and Eugene Steed, Richard Mathis and Arthur Gardner the ward clerks. "We had a close and unified relationship as a bishopric" relates Brother Webb.

At this time the ward numbered 976, so within a month, the ward was divided, making the new Seventh Ward. Richard Mathis and Phil Squire both went into the Seventh Ward so Donald J. Esplin was chosen as counselor and Gail Stewart as ward clerk. This made three different bishoprics with two months. "As a bishopric, with the help of our good wives, clerks and all heads of organizations, we worked hard to set the proper example," Bishop Webb said, "and we appreciated all the support of the entire ward as we progressed in the Lord's work. During my 6½ years as Bishop I remember many spiritual and miraculous healings. During this time our leaders were asking about our two years supply. Without any warning, we challenged our people to see if they could go two weeks without going to the store, however, they could trade with their neighbors. This proved to be a challenging experience, but showed how necessary it was to follow the counsel of our leaders."

During 1965, the ward members met the challenge of 6,000 names in the temple. In 1966, the challenge was repeated and 6,222 names were done. This was the highest record for any ward in the church for temple endowments up to that time.

"I give thanks to my Father in Heaven, to my faithful counselors, ward clerks and all other executive officers, and to all loyal ward members, to my wife and children who were willing to make many sacrifices for me to go and give so much of my time. As the scripture says, 'When you are in the service of your fellowmen, you are in the service of your God'. I believe this with all my heart," Bishop Webb concludes.

In 1967, Eldon Hafen was called to serve as the sixth bishop of the ward. His counselors were Don Esplin and





Mansfield Jennings. When the ward boundary lines were changed, Brother Jennings became a counselor in the Fifth Ward bishopric and Don Huber was called as counselor. Gail Stewart, Arthur Gardner, Bob Covington and Kay Mitchell served as ward clerks. During this time, the ward population was fairly stable,

with relatively few people moving in or out, the membership usually around 570.

The chapel was about twelve years old and was developing heating and cooling problems. The roof leaked and new paint was badly needed. All these problems were attended to.

Bishop Hafen's challenge during these years was the missionary quota brought on by the Viet Nam War. Each ward was allowed two missionaries per year. With 29 priests in the ward, and 27 of them wanting to go on mission, this presented a real problem. But the Lord opened up a way. A few of these young men did not pass the physical, and did not come under the quota. Two boys moved to other ward and were able to go from their new wards. The Sixth Ward was able to use quotas from smaller wards in the Stake who did not use their quota, and later the draft was abolished and all the young men who wanted to fulfill missions were able to do so.

Bishop Hafen's most embarrassing experience occurred when Spencer W. Kimball, then an apostle, visited St. George for Stake Conference in the morning. As Bishop Hafen was conducting the Sacrament meeting in the afternoon, he noticed Elder Kimball enter the side door. Bishop Hafen

was so startled that when he began to introduce Elder Kimball, he could not think of his name. One of his counselors came to his rescue by whispering Elder Kimball's name.

Bishop Hafen considers the Sixth Ward special because of the closeness of the members, their concern and love for one another. "The Ward had always had an outstanding record of accomplishments of which the members can be proud. We are like one big family," he states.

Looking back on his six years of service as bishop leads Bishop Hafen to conclude that those years were truly the most satisfying of his life. "I am sure this was because of the opportunity to serve and to become closely involved in other people's lives, their joys and successes, their trials, sadnesses and adversities. I am convinced that we are happiest when we are serving others." He pays tribute to his family for their support while he was bishop. "At the time I was ordained a bishop, we had six children. The oldest was 13 and the youngest was 2. We liked to go on picnics, boating and to the ranch together. It took a lot of planning and preparing as everything had to revolve around my schedule and obligations. It seemed quite remarkable how few times the children were disappointed because something came up that caused us to change our plans."

A humble man, Bishop Hafen endeared himself to the members by his cheerful and willing service to them.

Bishop Grey Larkin was called to serve from January 14, 1973, to April 29, 1978. He, like many bishops of the Sixth Ward had a young family, but he testifies to the blessings they received through accepting this call. "My



family was blessed with both spiritual and material blessings while I served. I know my business grew much faster as a result of my attention to my church calling even though I was away a great deal of the time. I really feel the sacrifices made by the ward in the remodeling of our building served to increase their blessings as well."



At the time Bishop Larkin was called, there was a great need for the chapel to be enlarged. Bishop Larkin's expertise in the building trade fitted in well with this need and became one of the priorities of his bishopric. His rapport with the young people helped keep the youth active and build their testimonies. His fondest memories are those of working with the youth of the ward. "The annual father and son outings and the years we took the youth down the Snake River are highlights of my service as bishop."

Serving as his counselors were J. Donald Esplin, Dale Barlow and later, C. Victor Anderson. The ward clerks were Bob Covington, Don Huber, Walter Snow and Kay Mitchell.

Two of the biggest challenges the ward faced while he was bishop were the rest homes and the many apartments within the ward boundaries. "These two areas were a constant concern and took much time. The Bishopric tried very hard to know all the members and to receive and send memberships with the people as they moved," Bishop Larkin said. For most of the years Bishop Larkin served, the Sixth Ward led the Stake in the number of missionaries serving.

In retrospect, Bishop Larkin feels that the most inspiring thing to him was "the willingness of giving by the Sixth Ward members. We were almost never turned down either for callings or money. We were able to remodel the chapel and have it paid for before it was finished. Everyone gave whatever was asked. It is also a ward full of talent and there is very little that can't be done by the members. I can honestly say that I never worried about the ward meeting its obligations whatever they were."

Bishop Larkin stated that the ward is strong because it is a close-knit ward but still willing to accept new members and make them feel welcome. "I am convinced that the constancy of the ward is a major factor in the close feeling among ward members. Outside of myself, all the other bishops are still living in the same homes they did when they served as bishop or next door as in the case of Bishop Pickett and Bishop McArthur."

Further, Bishop Larkin said, "We miss the Sixth Ward and often reminisce about our food times there. We miss all of our friends but we are making new friends and we won't lose our old ones either."

He had a great impact on the lives of the ward's young people and they care as much for Grey Larkin as he does for them. He was always available to listen to them and help shape their lives to the gospel standards.

A bishop who gave of himself totally in time and resources, Bishop Larkin's positive attitude and example of complete involvement and commitment to the Ward will not be forgotten.





The present bishop of the Sixth Ward, Daniel D. McArthur, has lived in the ward all his life with the exception of the time he was on a mission and attending BYU. His heart definitely belongs to the Sixth Ward!

Called on April 30, 1978, Bishop McArthur chose Ronald D.

Bracken and Laurel D. Madsen as his counselors and Walter H. Snow as ward clerk, Eugene Whitney, executive secretary, and Doug Quayle as financial clerk.

Bishop McArthur enjoys working with the youth and takes the time to counsel with them when they need help. He knows how to have a good time and this helps him relate well to them.

Some of the highlights of his service have been the special ward activities that have helped strengthen ties among members. These include special temple sessions and missionary sessions with newly-called missionaries. Other activities have been the ward parties, ward auctions and special programs by the ward. One faith-promoting experience was the special fast held by the Primary children for Kirk Madsen when he was very ill. It was inspiring to see the love and concern that the children showed for Kirk and his family. It is this characteristic that Bishop McArthur enjoys most about the Sixth Ward--the members do have a genuine concern for the well-being of each other. Another inspiring experience has been the implementation of the new Sunday schedule which has increased attendance at Sacrament meeting from 59% to 70-75%.

Serving as bishop has proven to be very challenging, but also a rewarding time in Bishop McArthur's life. So much so that he says, "In many ways, I am not looking forward to the time when I will no longer serve as bishop. I am very appreciative of the love and support the ward members have shown my counselors and me."

Among the blessings that have come to him personally are good health in his family and an opportunity of moving into a larger home. "We feel blessed to have so many good friends in the ward," Bishop McArthur said.

A man of great commitment to the gospel, Bishop McArthur has touched the lives of the members by his willingness to serve them, his humility and his dedication. Like all bishops of the Sixth Ward before him, Bishop McArthur is a great man.



## COMMITTEES

Committee Chairman: Doris T. Webb  
Committee Members: Dorothy Ruesch, Ruth Esplin, LaRee Jones  
Invitations: Jill Jones  
Histories: Carol M. Vincent  
Advertising: Dale Barlow  
Pictures and floral arrangements: Dorothy Ruesch  
Programs: Dena Sylvester, LaRee Jones  
Script: Ruth Esplin  
Music: Doris T. Webb

## Special Thanks

Virginia Knell, Donald Esplin, Hall Sullivan, Marlene Larkin, Rex Sylvester, Virgie Snow, Gloria Hirschi, Scott Hirschi, Ann Horlacher and their respective committees.

## BISHOP'S TRIBUTE

Oh Lord, let me go up the mountainside of life carrying my part of the responsibility of my community, and may my load be heavy enough that I may well earn a place in the heart of my fellowmen. And O Lord, may my load be heavy enough that at times I will have to reach up and take the outstretched hand of my fellowman, that he may help me over the rough and rugged pathway of life. And O Lord, may my load be light enough that I may, in turn, stoop and take the uplifted hand of my brother, and help him over the same rough and rugged path, and thereby know the joy of loving and having been loved. And then, when I have reached the mountain peak of useful life, and there deposited my load of responsibility, and quietly slip over into the eventide, may my shoulders be stooped from the load it was my privilege to carry; may my temples be gray from the length of time it was my privilege to serve; and may my eyes be dimmed from searching for the straight and narrow path. O Lord, when I slowly descend the mountainside of life, and the sun is sinking low into the West and the shadows are lengthening far into the East, and I come to that river that divides this life from the life beyond, may I not find there a pot of gold I have accumulated, nor great empire that I have builded, nor nations that I have conquered, but, O Lord, may I find there a monument, reaching into the skies, and may it be builded of the purest and finest stones, and may every stone be a friend, like you, and you !

J. B. Cardwell



THE "BISHOP'S" CALL

Words and Music  
by Doris T. Webb

Andante

They heard the call of ser-vice, the call to serve the Lord. These

Bishops true have cared for you, and served you through and

through, They heard the call, "come feed my sheep" and answer they did

heed, to one and all, they knew our needs, to guide our paths Q-

-right. and as they knelt each day to pray, their tasks they

--- must ful-fill. They knew the Lord would give them strength, if

they'd but do his will---, and so to-night we honor them. These great

Bishops true, and ask our Father up above to keep them safe for you, and

as they knelt each day to pray, their tasks they must fulfill. They

knew the Lord would give them strength, if they'd but do his will-and

so to-night we honor them. These great Bishops true, and ask our Fa-ther

up above to keep them safe for you.